



Senate

General Assembly

February Session, 2004

File No. 75

Senate Bill No. 65

Senate, March 16, 2004

The Committee on Public Safety reported through SEN. NEWTON of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 27-102n of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

3 (a) There shall be a Board of Trustees for the Department of
4 Veterans' Affairs. The board shall be comprised of the commissioner
5 and [nine] thirteen members who by education or experience shall be
6 qualified in health care, business management, social services or law
7 and who shall have a demonstrated interest in the concerns of
8 veterans. The deputy commissioner of the veterans' advocacy and
9 assistance unit shall be a nonvoting member of the board. A majority
10 of the members of the board shall be veterans, including veterans of
11 World War II, the Korean hostilities and the Vietnam era. Members
12 shall be appointed as follows: Nine by the Governor [and] who shall
13 serve at the pleasure of the Governor and one member each by the

14 president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of
15 Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate and the minority
16 leader of the House of Representatives whose term shall be
17 coterminous with the term of the appointing authority. Members shall
18 be sworn to the faithful performance of their duties. They shall receive
19 no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for their
20 reasonable expenses in the performance of their duties.

21 (b) The board shall meet at least quarterly and upon the call of the
22 commissioner. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

23 (c) The board shall advise and assist the commissioner in the
24 operation of the Veterans' Home and Hospital, the veterans' advocacy
25 and assistance unit, the administration, expansion or modification of
26 existing programs and services of the department and the
27 development of new programs and services.

28 (d) The board shall review and approve any regulations prior to
29 adoption by the commissioner concerning: (1) Procedures relating to
30 admission and discharge or transfer of veterans in the home and
31 hospital; (2) a per diem fee schedule for programs, services and
32 benefits provided therein; and (3) the participation of eligible family
33 members in programs or services provided by the home and hospital.

34 (e) The board shall submit an annual report to the Governor and to
35 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
36 cognizance of matters relating to public safety on its activities with its
37 recommendations, if any, for improving the delivery of services to
38 veterans and the addition of new programs.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2004

PS *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill increases the membership of the Board of Trustees for the Department of Veterans' Affairs and will result in no cost to the state.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 65

AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**SUMMARY:**

This bill adds four members to the Veterans' Affairs Board of Trustees, increasing its membership from nine to 13, and adding legislative leaders as appointing authorities. Under current law, the governor appoints all the members. The bill gives one appointment each to the Senate president pro tempore, Senate minority leader, House majority leader, and House minority leader. It makes the terms of these four appointees coterminous with their appointing authorities. The bill specifies that board members, who are required to be veterans, must include WWII, Korean, and Vietnam veterans.

The bill also requires the board to submit to the Public Safety Committee its annual report on new programs and its activities and recommendations for service delivery to veterans. Currently, the report goes only to the governor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2004

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 22 Nay 0